

take into account the time that is not measured by human calendars—the eternity of God. It is a solemn hour. We have reached the end of another year. We are about to step over into a new one. For the present do not look forward, but backward, and in the light of eternity, in the presence of God ask yourself the question, "How old am I?" Have my years counted for Him who created and redeemed me? Do not let the old year pass away before you begin the service of your Master. Consider well the claim God has upon you by reason of your relation to him, and give back to the Lord that which belongs to him.

TRUE CHRISTMAS JOYS.

Would you have a real pleasant, happy Christmas—one that will bring true, lasting joys to your heart? Then there are several things you ought to do, and among them, you need to remember, in a practical way, the deserving poor. In every community may be found the poor and fatherless, the motherless and the homeless. These should not be forgotten. Christmas should mean more than gift getting. Indeed, this is the least of the joys of Christmas day. That which will add to the joys and gladness of the day, that which will give you the joy and peace that are from above, is the consciousness, that in the giving of gifts in money or useful articles, you have others made glad and comfortable. Amid the joys and gladness and festivities of Christmas day, let those be the purest that have come to you because you have made others happy. Remember that God, on this day, has given us the greatest and best of all gifts. Re-count the blessings that have come to you because your heart and home have been opened to the sweet and tender influences of the dear Christ of God. Then think of those who are deprived of these heavenly blessings, and do something that will cheer and warm their hearts. It is well, too, to remember the words of Jesus: "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." The highest joys of the Christian, the most abiding peace come to us in making known Jesus, and in helping fallen humanity to a higher plane of life.

Hail Christmas, all glorious! In triumph we sing
To the Prince then in Bethlehem born;
He came, the Redeemer, deliverance to bring,
And angels flew earthward on speediest wing
That first happy bright Christmas morn.

CIRCULATING THE CHURCH PAPER.

At this season of the year when so many subscriptions to the EVANGELIST expire, it is well to call the attention of pastors and agents to the importance of every church member reading the paper, and also suggest plans and methods of securing subscriptions. We know of nothing better and more valuable to give our readers than the experience of Rev. J. O. Peck, D. D., a very successful pastor in the Methodist Episcopal church. In a series of articles contributed to the *Zion's Herald*, he gives, not his "theories," but his practical experience, as a pastor, in securing subscriptions for the paper, and in what he calls "one of the most important collateral duties of the pastor." We give below the experience of Dr. Peck, and heartily commend it to the pastors of the Brethren church. If all our pastors would adopt the method of this eminent servant of the Lord, the EVANGELIST subscription list would reach 3000 in a very short time. Try it, pastor, and our word for it you will be amply repaid for the effort you have made. Let there be a united front of pastor and people moving on toward the 3000 mark. The experience of Dr. Peck may be repeated in every congregation in the Brethren church. Here is what he says:

"I did not dream when I was making the historic experience that I would so often hear of it, and be asked to give the repetition of it.

I did have large success in securing subscribers to the church paper within whose patronizing territory I was pastor for twenty-five years. I believe the church paper my best and most effective assistant pastor. I believe any other paper displacing the Herald or Advocate (according to my locality) to be undermining of the Methodist intelligence and loyalty of the members of my church. Hence, to circulate the church paper becomes a conviction, a passion, a joy. I felt it a duty, a part of my legitimate pastoral work, as much as the conversion of souls and the building up of the saints in holy living. Yes, I conceived it to be a strong reinforcement in effecting these results. Hence I threw my brains, soul, tact, and enthusiasm into getting subscribers for the paper. I worked for it as I did for a revival, and on the same ground—that it was necessary to the highest success of my pastorate. And it was.

If you want it in a nutshell—I worked to get subscribers with all the tact and enthusiasm I could as if I had owned the paper and received all the profits. There you

have it. I was a partner in the concern. I received my dividends in a more intelligent and devoted membership. The *modus operandi* was as follows:

1. I took the paper into the pulpit. I opened it wide and showed it to the people. I expatiated upon its beauties, its benefits, its departments, its necessity to any member who would be an intelligent Methodist and know the current history of his church. I warmed with my theme and exhorted. I appealed to their loyalty. I excoriated the disloyalty that dropped the church papers and took outside papers, especially if they were cheap. I told of the bread they were taking out of the mouth of hungry superannuates, widows, and orphans of our church, to put money into the coffers of outside publishers. I portrayed the fact that the paper was worth five cents a week—all it cost—to any family in the prepared exposition of the Sunday-school lesson. I swept the whole keyboard of incentive to take the paper. Then when the iron had been made hot by striking, I struck to weld it by taking subscriptions *on the spot!* I got all I could on Sunday as a *religious work*. I used blank cards often in the pews. I nailed their ears to the paper with a pencil.

2. I followed up this bombardment from the pulpit by a renewed attack at closer range in the prayer meeting. I repeated the effort in the prayer meeting at intervals. I always gained some at the close of a warm prayer meeting.

3. I next put a clean copy of the paper in my pocket, and started on my pastoral visitation each afternoon. By this time I had made a list of all who *ought* to take the paper, but had not subscribed. With this list and the paper in my pocket, I began sharp shooting at *close* range. I went to the house, the store, the shop the factory. I pulled out my paper and my list. I submitted the question. Most surrendered at once when thus individually appealed to. The few that hesitated I stayed with till they "saw a great light" and subscribed. Only here and there an obtuse or stingy soul escaped.

4. There were always a few poor people who could not afford to take the paper. On Christmas or New Year's I would state this fact to the public congregation, and ask the well to do to send a Christmas or New Year's gift to these poor that would come every week in the year. This always met with a quick response.

5. At the close of the revival each year I appealed to all new converts to take a church paper. I explained the benefit, and urged on them the duty of taking a